



QUARTERLY 2011.1

Mood Indigo:
the true costs of your blue jeans

The social network:
giving the Earth a voice

Fukushima:
a disaster unfolds

Eastern Promise

Greenpeace is growing in East Asia.
What challenges lie ahead?



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Dave Birmingham, 1913 - 201134

Greenpeace placed 100 ice sculptures of children at the Temple of Earth in Beijing in 2009 to symbolise the disappearing future of the 1.3 billion people in Asia threatened with water shortages by the changing climate.



GREENPEACE

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A message from Kumi

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the new-look Quarterly magazine. Our theme for this issue is East Asia, with stories about the recent opening of our office in Taiwan, the *Rainbow Warrior's* tour of the region, and on our campaign work in the area, especially in sustainable agriculture and water pollution. This part of the world has been under-represented in global efforts to combat catastrophic climate change and often ignored in issues of climate justice, and I hope you'll agree with me that we all have reason to be proud of the advances made by Greenpeace in the region.

While we were putting the finishing touches to this edition, Japan was hit by a series of devastating catastrophes. It has been very difficult for us to stop thinking about the consequences, which is why I would like to take the opportunity of this foreword to share my thoughts on the tragic events of 11 March and the aftermath.

The Japanese people lost loved ones in the crush of an earthquake, and in the ensuing tsunami. While the entire world was reeling from these disasters, scores of workers risked their health by heroically attempting to stabilise the Fukushima nuclear complex that had been damaged by the events. Twenty-five years after Chernobyl, the world suffered another reminder of the dangers of nuclear power.

As we watch developments at Fukushima unfold - hoping that radiation leaks and discharges will be brought to an end and that the risk of further catastrophe will be averted - some governments around the world have continued to promote further investment in nuclear power. Just last month, for example, the government of my home country of South Africa announced that it was adding 9,600 megawatts of nuclear energy to its new energy plan.

So, in addition to the grief and empathy I have been feeling for the Japanese people, I have also felt another emotion - anger.

There are two dangerous assumptions currently parading themselves as fact in the midst of the ongoing nuclear crisis. The first is that nuclear energy is safe. The second is that nuclear energy is an essential element of a low carbon future, that it is needed to prevent catastrophic climate change. Both are false. Nuclear technology will always be vulnerable to human error, natural disaster, design failure or terrorist attack. What we are seeing at Fukushima right now are failures of the systems. The reactors themselves withstood the earthquake and tsunami, but then the vital cooling systems failed. When the back-up power systems also failed, the reactors overheated, eventually causing the spread of radiation. This is only one example of what can go wrong.

The argument that nuclear energy is a necessary component of a carbon-free future is also false.

Greenpeace's 'Energy [R]evolution', developed together with the European Renewable Energy Council, clearly shows that a clean energy pathway is cheaper, healthier and delivers faster results for the climate than any other option. Nuclear energy is an expensive and deadly distraction from the real solutions; the same amount of money invested in clean, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar could have a much greater impact on lowering global warming.

It is imperative that as citizens of the world we continue to voice our opposition to further investment in nuclear energy. We need a truly clean energy revolution now!

Have courage, Japan. Our hearts are with you as you struggle with the aftermath of these tragic events. The spirit, courage, generosity and ingenuity of your people bode well for your future.



Eastern Promise

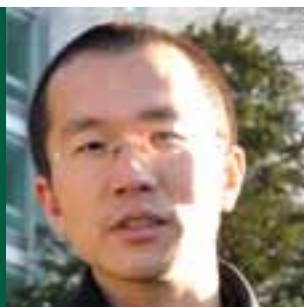
Greenpeace is growing in East Asia

1997 was an historic year in China, marking the return of Hong Kong to the People's Republic. It was also the year that Greenpeace opened an office in Hong Kong. Over a decade later, Greenpeace East Asia is going from strength to strength. This year, our work in the region extends beyond Hong Kong and mainland China. We've just opened our newest office in Taipei, Taiwan, and we will also be working in South Korea.

The reasons for Greenpeace working in China and Hong Kong are as clear as ever - China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The country has 300 million rural residents who drink and wash in unsafe water every day. During 2009, Hong Kong's air pollution reached levels dangerous to health almost once a week. Sze Pang Cheung (or Kontau, as he's more familiarly known to his colleagues) - looks back on the development of Greenpeace in Hong Kong and China, shares his thoughts on how to tackle a severe environmental problem - water pollution - and looks ahead to the future for Greenpeace East Asia.







Kontau

Campaign Director,
Greenpeace East Asia.

“The Chinese government values the environment more than it did before, and the public are also becoming more concerned about environmental protection. We have many reasons to be optimistic – but these changes will not occur on their own – they need our effort and our determination to succeed.”

Greenpeace in China: tackling difficulties head-on

What changes have there been in Greenpeace's work in China since we first opened our doors here?

We're dealing with a wider range of environmental problems than we did before. We started tackling genetic engineering and electronic waste, but today we're working on climate change, energy issues, water pollution, the problems with pesticides and fertilisers, and forest protection. We've also become much more experienced and daring than when we first started out. We can now confront sensitive issues, such as exposing the severity of water pollution in Chinese rivers, opposing China's cultivation of genetically-engineered rice and challenging large, state-owned enterprises.

Why do you think Greenpeace can be so influential in China?

Just as elsewhere in the world, our strength in China comes from our independence and our pursuit of change. We never let ourselves be open to external pressure, either politically or monetarily. As a result, we can always able tell the truth and push for real, effective solutions for the environment.

What do you think is the most difficult challenge in China?

I think there's no challenge greater than dealing with the pressure we face because we're running out of time! Environmental disasters are taking place every day in China. We need to start seeing more and more wins in the fight against catastrophic climate change within the next 10 years, or else we'll be faced with consequences such as runaway climate change. I often ask myself, "Can we make it before we pass the point of no return?"

Seeking solutions at the source: Greenpeace's water campaign

As we enter 2011, climate change remains our key campaign, but we're also stepping up our investigation into water pollution, one of China's worst environmental problems. Why is Greenpeace working on water pollution?

Water pollution is the price China is paying for becoming the world's factory. Everything in our life, whether it's a pair of jeans or a computer, requires large quantities of chemicals as part of its production process. These hazardous substances are often dumped straight from factories into rivers and lakes, where they contaminate the drinking water supply and proliferate in the environment, damaging human health.

What are some key aspects of Greenpeace's campaign?

The problem of water pollution must be solved at the source. The key is to push the government to change its policies and reduce the use of hazardous chemicals in production. The government must have effective measures, laws and market mechanisms to put these policies into place and enforce them. The government is paying more and more attention to water pollution, but the central government's laws are often not observed or enforced. And the government's thinking is often fixated on correcting the symptoms, not the cause. But we should focus on preventing pollution before it occurs. Our plan is to work from three angles. First, we aim to increase both public and government awareness of the dangers of hazardous chemicals. In addition, we will push industry to decrease the use of hazardous chemicals. Finally, we will increase the transparency of information disclosure on pollution, so that the public can participate in the local regulation and oversight of pollution.

What about the people who are affected by water pollution?

When water becomes polluted, its most direct impact is the drinking water of rural people as well as the irrigation of farmland. Greenpeace believes that it's not only the government that has the right to investigate and regulate water pollution; the affected public should also have channels to acquire information about polluting industries, so that people can safeguard their lives and document and report polluters.

Are you optimistic about the campaign?

Certainly. We strongly believe that water pollution can be solved, or else we wouldn't be working on this issue! I know that Greenpeace can – and will – play a key role in cleaning up China's rivers and lakes. Here's an example of the changes that Greenpeace can help bring about: Last year, a Greenpeace report on endocrine disruptors, which have an effect on the reproductive system, attracted not only widespread media coverage but also the attention of the Ministry for Environmental Protection (MEP). In 2011, the MEP took a first step by restricting the import and export of one of the chemicals named in the report. One professor researching chemical management told us, 'I have advocated for the strict management of endocrine disruptors for many years, but the government turned a deaf ear. Now after one report by Greenpeace, everyone is paying attention!'

Looking to the future

Greenpeace East Asia is one of Greenpeace's global priority offices for the coming years. What does this mean for you – how will it impact your work?

We'll benefit greatly from having more resources to work with. That doesn't just mean financially – we'll also have more people to do the work, as our international colleagues from other offices will be coming to work with us. At the same time, though, being a priority office also brings its share of pressure – we'll be working even harder and we'll want to achieve even more changes!

What hopes and expectations do you have for the future of the East Asia office?

In mainland China, Greenpeace aims to become a key influence on core environmental issues within the next 5 years. In the next 10 years, I hope we can turn around the course of environmental damage, and start to see a decline, for example, in the massive quantities of pesticides and fertilisers in use here. In Taiwan and in South Korea, I hope that our offices become well-established and that we can start making contributions to the local and global environment.

Are you optimistic about the development of China's environment?

I think we're now standing at a crossroads. If China's environment continues to worsen, the results will be unthinkable and irrevocable. If we can turn it around, however, not only this country but the entire world will benefit.

China's blues

Indigo blue – it's a beautiful colour, but not when it's the colour of your water. Water pollution is one of China's most severe environmental problems – one in four people here drink unsafe water. Toxic chemicals, many of which are banned in the EU and other countries, are still used for manufacturing in China and contribute significantly to this pollution. A major culprit is China's growing textile industry. Clothing is one of China's leading exports and global demand for cheap clothes is driving this damage.

Welcome to Xintang, China – the 'Jeans Capital' of the world. It produces 260 million pairs of jeans annually, or more than 60% of China's total jeans production and equivalent to 40% of all the jeans sold in the US each year. Over 40% of Xintang's jeans are exported to the US, the EU, Russia and many other countries. Meanwhile, 80% of neighbouring Gurao's economy is related to the underwear and lingerie industry. Each year, it produces 200 million bras. Most of the residents in these two towns work for the jeans or underwear industry, and their incomes have been improved by the industries. But this improvement is coming at a high cost to their health and to the environment.





One aisle at the International Jeans Wholesale City in Xintang, Zengcheng, where the economy is centred around textile production.



Mariah Zhao

Toxics Campaigner,
Greenpeace East Asia.

Mariah studied environmental science at Peking University and has been working for Greenpeace for over four years. Before she joined Greenpeace she worked as a journalist and a web editor in China.

A couple of years ago, Greenpeace was investigating industrial water pollution. We happened to be in the Xintang area, and when I visited Xintang for the first time, I was dazzled by its thriving textile industry. Xintang's jeans business began in the '80s, and in the last 30 years its output has rocketed. Its economy revolves around the complete production of jeans: from spinning, dyeing and weaving, to cutting, printing, washing, sewing and bleaching. It seemed to me that every shop on every street was related to jeans production - everyone was working on huge piles of jeans. Factories large and small fill the streets of Xintang, as well as family workshops housed in makeshift sheds. Everywhere, people are busy making and processing jeans by hand - in the markets, in the commercial areas, in villages and in front of family homes. Women, the elderly and children often do simple thread-cutting jobs to supplement the family income.

But even if this scene of intense industry was somehow to be expected, the pollution was definitely not. There are several little rivers in the town, and almost all of them were of a bluish-black colour and smelled really bad. These rivers eventually flow into Dongjiang, a major tributary of the Pearl River, the third largest river in China.

In 2010, as part of Greenpeace's continuing investigation into China's water pollution, Xintang became an ideal case study reflecting the pollution problems of the textile industry. It was painful to find the town's environment had shown hardly any improvement since I was last there. We also went to Gurao - 'Capital of Underwear' - another town in Guangdong province, where the rivers are also running black due to pollution from the highly-concentrated underwear production in the area. According to the China National Textile and Apparel Council's statistics, there are 133 'textile industry clusters' like Xintang and Gurao in China; the true number could be far greater, however.

“Blue jeans are much dirtier than you might ever guess. That cool, distressed denim look is the result of several chemical-intensive washes, and fabric painting and dyeing involves heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead.”

A pedicab driver in Gurao told us that he used to swim and catch fish in a small river in his village, but now it has been black and untouchable for over 10 years. As a result, his son never learned how to swim, 'because there is no place for him to swim anymore'. The driver's remark is a sad reflection on the little town's reality. The bigger reality of industrial water pollution in China - and the severity of this pollution - is even more worrying.

Dirtier than it looks

To obtain an accurate analysis of the extent of the pollution in Xintang and Gurao, Greenpeace asked a third-party independent laboratory to conduct tests for five heavy metals on water and sediment samples taken from places in both of the towns between August and October 2010. Even though I was the person who took most of the samples, the person who had seen and smelled the dirtiness of the water, I was still surprised by how bad the results turned out to be. The water was even dirtier than it looked.

To make stonewashed denim, stones are washed along with the fabric in industrial washing machines. Every morning, workers at the factory in Xintang, Zengcheng must scoop these stones out of the wastewater.



Testing by the laboratory revealed heavy metals such as copper, cadmium and lead in 17 out of 21 samples. One sediment sample from Xintang contained cadmium at concentrations 128 times in excess of national environmental standards. Known as a very hazardous chemical to the environment and human health, cadmium can cause lung disease, kidney disease and cancer.

Many industries use heavy metals in their production processes, and in turn release these hazardous chemicals into the environment. But, while it's impossible to pinpoint specific parties responsible for the heavy metal water pollution with our sampling methods, our findings nevertheless indicate the existence of severe heavy metal pollution in the towns' water systems. I could not help but wonder - are these two towns exceptional? And who is to be blamed for these dreadfully contaminated rivers?

Industry and water pollution in China

According to the most recent report made public by National Development and Reform Commission of China, one quarter of the population has no access to clean drinking water. Almost half the amount of wastewater is discharged by industries. The textile industry is the fifth largest polluter, judging from the amount of wastewater it discharges every year. The other major polluters are the pulp and paper, chemical, electric power and smelt industries.

Worryingly, the many hazardous chemicals in the water are hardly identified, monitored or regulated in China yet. These chemicals - heavy metals and some synthetic organic compounds - are highly toxic, very persistent and some of them are bioaccumulative. The majority of these chemicals are products, materials or by-products of industrial activities. Taking the textile industry as an example, fabric dyes not only sometimes contain heavy metals, but also hormone disruptors, which are at times used in common production processes.

A migrant worker who moved to Gurao for a job in a textile factory told us, 'The water is discharged from the dyeing factories upstream. Sometimes it smells really awful. And every time, the colour of the water is different.'

We've heard numerous complaints like this from local people when investigating the two towns, not only about the state of the water but also the potential impacts on human health: 'Everyone says that people who work in dyeing and washing have reproductive and fertility problems. My cousin once worked in a dyeing plant. He died of pleurisy,' said a migrant worker from Sichuan, who currently works in a factory packaging jeans.

This is the dark side of 'Jeans Capital'. Environmental pollution has become one of the consequences of China's economic model and industrial development.

The cost of fashion

I'm a fashion lover. I enjoy shopping for stylish clothes. It's been painstaking for me to realise that the fashion items I love so much come from an industry that is polluting the environment so much. Besides the polluted water, the workers' living conditions are in huge contrast to the industry's fashionable image. When we were interviewing local residents and migrant workers in these towns, we found that they are usually paid very little money – around only €200 a month to work six days a week and ten hours a day. At the same time, they suffer the consequences of the pollution. Basically, their lives have nothing to do with the fancy world of fashion. I talked to a young migrant worker in Gurao who came from Guizhou Province. He is 26 years old and works in a factory that makes bras. His biggest wish was to find a girlfriend and get married. The most expensive thing he'd ever bought for himself was a cellphone, for which he saved three months' salary. He'd never ever had a girlfriend, and his cellphone was stolen shortly after he bought it.

Fashion is costing us more than we could ever expect. I can never look at my own jeans and underwear without thinking of the damaged environment of Xintang and Gurao, and the people living there. I feel guilty, because it is my love of fashion, my consumption, that makes me a partner to a crime I didn't even realise was being committed. I also feel cheated: the bright colours of fashion do not live up to the dark secrets of their origins. Our 'dirty laundry' needs to be taken out into the open and publicly aired.

Calling for solutions

I will always remember something said to me by one of the local villagers in Xintang: 'It's not that we don't want the textile industry to make a profit. My family relies upon sewing jeans in order to make a living. But, the production process must be clean and it must not pollute the environment...'

He is absolutely right. Solving the problem should never mean shutting down the facilities and abandoning any development. Cleaning up the processes from the very start, eliminating hazardous chemicals throughout production, adopting cleaner technologies and disclosing properly monitored data are all key elements of the right approach, and this approach requires the joint efforts of governments and the industry alike.

If the health and well-being of Chinese citizens and their environment is to improve, it's absolutely vital that we get the textiles industry to stop using toxic chemicals and encourage government to make substantial changes to legislation.

This year Greenpeace internationally decided to prioritise this work and we've committed globally to raise further awareness of the problem, and to promote the elimination of these toxic chemicals. It won't be easy, but making change happen has never exactly been easy, so that's not a problem unique to China! Our work together is only just starting, but once we're ready to launch, rest assured that you'll be the first to know.

Water samples
are taken from
a polluted river
near Dadun
Village, Xintang,
Zengcheng.



Greenpeace is working on bringing changes to the necessary policies and to the industry's behaviour, and I'm particularly proud to be part of this work. And, just like everybody else, there's something I can do to help with the situation, so here's my advice for how you can also enjoy a greener wardrobe:

- Tell your friends about the pollution problems - spreading awareness of this issue helps us push for a toxics-free future for the textile industry.
- Buy green - look out for brands that make clothing from recycled materials or old clothes, or use only environmentally-friendly, naturally-dyed fabrics.
- Speak up - visit your favourite brand's website and see if they've implemented any environmental policies, especially for chemical management. If not, or if their policies aren't good enough, let them know that you love their clothes, but ask them to improve.
- Extend the lifetime of your clothes! Reduced consumption is reduced production. 'Fast fashion' items may be inexpensive, but they won't last long, and they'll be out of fashion tomorrow. When shopping, buy high-quality pieces that will last you a lifetime.
- Do it yourself! You can be chic, smart and green at the same time by updating and accessorising your clothes. Or, you can organise clothes-swapping parties with your friends and co-workers.

Join us, help Xintang and Gurao become better places, and give a clean green taste to our passion for fashion.

Rice at risk!

Chinese people are rejecting genetically-engineered (GE) rice. Despite this, we're concerned that China may become the first country in the world to allow GE rice to be grown commercially. In 2008, the State Council announced it would invest 20 billion yuan over the next few years into GE research and development.

"We don't want GE rice!" is the clear message that has rung loud and clear in China. At the Greenpeace office in Beijing, we've been getting more and more calls and emails from parents, housewives, college students, seed sellers, and even farmers, all with the same question: How can I avoid genetically engineered rice?

We've felt the anxiety and anger about GE food in these calls, and now this anxiety has become even clearer. A recent survey we commissioned showed that 69% of mainland consumers and 79% of Hong Kong consumers do not want GE rice.



In 2005-2006, five rice farmers from the Yunnan Province with no experience in photography were given a camera. We asked them to document their sustainable rice farming methods over the space of a year to highlight the potential of ecological agriculture. This picture is by Li Mingfu, one of the farmers.





Pan Wenjing

Food & Agriculture Campaigner,
Greenpeace East Asia.

Pan Wenjing is a Food & Agriculture campaigner based in Beijing. She has worked with Greenpeace for more than three years. She is currently taking the lead on a project that is focused on stopping GE rice commercialisation in China.

Rice is the most important staple food for Chinese people. It plays an important role in Chinese culture, tradition and social life, with a history of 7,000 years of growing thousands of rice varieties. As babies we are fed rice porridge and rice is an intricate part of nearly all our meals. Unfortunately, our daily food is now at risk: despite the people's rejection, GE rice is on the edge of commercialisation.

As rice is such an important part of Chinese life, it is an extremely strong message that consumers are giving by showing their rejection of GE rice so clearly. Greenpeace commissioned a consumer survey in several cities and areas of China in 2010. The survey results in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou show 69% of consumers would choose non-GE rice and 77% would choose baby food without GE rice. In Hong Kong, 79% of consumers say 'No' to GE rice. Rejection is also spreading to other parts of China - a follow-up survey clearly shows that in Wuhan and Changsha in Central China, 65% of consumers would choose non-GE rice, and 83% would choose non GE rice in baby food.

So far, the seed sellers' and farmers' rejections of GE has not been listened to or respected. The entire process that would lead towards GE commercialisation in China has taken place behind closed doors. The Chinese people were not even informed that two GE rice lines have received biosafety certificates, a step towards commercialisation

Working for Greenpeace and towards a world free of GE, I don't want to have to answer the calls of angry and anxious people because they may soon not be able to avoid GE food.

"I'm urging the Chinese government to listen carefully to these mothers' and farmers' voices."



I'm urging the government to stop ignoring the voice of the people. GE rice should be stopped immediately. The government must take the threat GE crops pose to the environment, health and food security seriously and stop this experiment with people's food.

With your help, we are sampling, investigating, documenting and exposing GE and pesticide problems in seeds, fields and the food chain. We inform consumers, companies, supermarkets and the government about the problem, explaining to them the real solutions and urging them to take actions. And we confront those who fail to act responsibly. We've succeeded in getting several supermarkets and food companies in China to take responsibility for the food they are selling to their customers. Several of the biggest supermarket chains and major food companies have committed not to sell GE food in China - and that includes domestic as well as overseas supermarkets.



We've published a consumers' guide to help Chinese shoppers to avoid GE food. Our supermarket guide informs consumers about the policies, actions and measure these supermarkets have taken to ban the use of hazardous pesticide and GE crops from the vegetables, fruits and grain grown for their stores.

Everyone shares the responsibility to protect the environment, and food companies and supermarkets can no longer hide behind the excuse that they are complying with the law - they can and should do much more than just meet their legal requirements. Many of them have such measures in place in other countries, so why not in China? We'll continue to document, sample, investigate, expose and confront until we get more and more food companies and supermarkets to take the urgently-needed drastic action necessary to ensure safe food and the protection of both people and the environment.



Greenpeace is the leading non-governmental organisation in China pushing for actions against chemical intensive agriculture and stronger policies for eco-farming.

- We urge the government to put money into supporting eco-agriculture and to stop chemical intensive farming.
- We urge the government not to approve GE rice and other GE crops.
- We work with scientists and conduct our own investigations to reveal the problems of chemical and GE farming and the feasibility of eco-farming solutions.
- We inform consumers about the risks of GE and agrochemicals in fields and food, and campaign for food companies and supermarkets to take action to protect the environment and to respect their customers' demands for safe food.



As Greenpeace prepares to celebrate its 40 years of changing the world, we take the chance to look at the changes the organisation has seen since the day a small team of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada, in an old fishing boat to protest against US nuclear testing.

The social network

The rise of the social network has not only continued the tradition of using mass media to change people's views of the world around them that is deeply rooted in our very earliest days, with the power of social networking, we can also ensure that millions of people can now take action themselves...

SET A WORLD RECORD!

Get facebook to run
on green energy

LIVE NOW

Write your comment

50,000
COMMENTS
IN 24 HOURS

Like

101,227 people like this.



Laura Kenyon

Online Activist

Laura is an online activist with Greenpeace International, specialising in community networking.

Four decades ago the first images of Greenpeace activists putting themselves between harpoons and whales were captured. They revealed the horrific reality of modern whaling: a fleet of harpoon ships running down and slaughtering entire pods of whales, from adults to babies. After being harpooned the carcasses were tagged and towed back to a mammoth factory vessel where the whales disappeared into the bowels of the ship - devoured. The activists who raced among the fleet in small inflatable boats had never seen anything like it before. They were horrified.

This first confrontation took place far out at sea, with nobody present to witness the savage hunt or the peaceful protest but the activists, the whalers and the whales themselves. But this was 1975: the world had already entered the age of mass media, and fortunately this meant that more than just those present that day would bear witness to the industrial-scale destruction whaling represented. The images captured by the Greenpeace activists out at sea travelled all over the world, as photographs via the wire services and as video footage aired on news broadcasts. A new understanding of whaling entered the minds of everyone who saw these images, and their impact hasn't diminished over the years. These 'David vs Goliath' images: activists in small zodiacs dwarfed by whaling ships like floating factories, still hang on the walls of Greenpeace offices around the world, and they remain one of the most recognisable Greenpeace images in the minds of the general public.

The lesson learned from the impact of these first images was that mass media would be a powerful tool in the struggle against environmental destruction. A single picture - if it told a compelling story - could change people's minds.

Since those early days Greenpeace has used the tools mass media provides to extend the act of 'bearing witness' to more than just the individuals present at the scene of devastation, to expose those complicit in environmental crimes, to present alternatives to the status quo, and to send messages that solutions exist, that change is possible.

Now we live (and campaign) in the age of the social network. An age where, with millions of others, you can watch the rallying cries of young Egyptian activists on YouTube; where you can show solidarity by posting their stories to your Facebook; where you can follow live updates from journalists or citizens on Twitter; where in just the last few weeks we have all witnessed the power of social media as a tool that has helped a determined people change their country.

These same social media platforms are important for Greenpeace.

Social networks not only provide new channels for reaching out to people, new chances to change people's minds, they also allow people to react and act.

Social media is not a one-way flow of information, it's an ongoing conversation where people can engage with us and actively support our work anywhere in the world they can get online. We have been able to provide outlets for taking action in defence of the environment to more people than ever before, and to date we've involved millions of people in our online campaigning. But our presence on social media platforms is about more than keeping up with media trends and looking cool - it's about winning campaign goals that benefit our planet.

Last year a bored office worker bit into a Kit Kat bar and ended up chomping (with accompanying squirts of blood) on an orangutan finger. This bit of blood and gore exposed Nestlé's connection to rainforest destruction in Indonesia to a vast online audience, attracting 1.6 million views on YouTube. Only 10 weeks later the largest food and drink company in the world agreed to remove products coming from rainforest destruction from its supply chains. It was a big victory for rainforests and it was achieved via social media.



On the day that this campaign was launched, thousands of people watched our Kit Kat spoof on YouTube, learned about Nestlé's use of palm oil from destroyed rainforests and sent an e-mail to CEO Paul Bulcke from our website. But they wanted to do more, so they acted via the quickest route available: they went to Nestlé's Facebook fan page and left a few comments making clear exactly what they thought about Nestlé's palm oil sourcing policies. Nestlé responded to their concerns with a wooden statement of its 'official position' and a decree that those who continued to use the Kit Kat 'killer' logo as their profile picture would be removed from the Facebook page.



The response? More people changed their profile pictures. More people left comments. 'Nestlé takes a beating on social media sites' was the headline in the Wall Street Journal.

The Quaker values that are part of Greenpeace's founding principles hold that the act of bearing witness 'changes the level of commitment on the part of the witness'. By witnessing an act of injustice you are bestowed with a new responsibility, one that compels you to act in reflection of what you have witnessed. That action could take on many forms.

It could be passing on that knowledge to family and friends, it could be changing some part of your lifestyle, or it could be taking direct action against that injustice. The reaction of thousands of people to our Nestlé campaign reflects that notion of bearing witness. They saw injustice and they acted – and in this case social media was the channel for both.

There's no denying the appeal of putting a big, powerful corporation in its place (however briefly). Corporations are opening themselves up to social media more and more, so that you can 'like' your favourite coffee brand on Facebook and religiously follow each new product release from Apple on your Twitter account. But the free flow of information through social media networks means that corporations also have less control over how their brands and products are portrayed. People will talk about things they like on Facebook, but they'll also talk about things they don't like – and social media has given world public opinion a much bigger platform than it's ever had before.

The Kit Kat campaign wasn't the first Nestlé had heard from us. Our campaigners had been in dialogue with Nestlé for years. We had done the research. We had outlined the problems with its supply chains. We had explained to Nestlé its links to the ongoing destruction of Indonesia's carbon-rich peatlands and rainforests. When Nestlé didn't act on this information itself, we passed it along to all of our friends on Facebook, all of our followers on Twitter, and everyone on our e-mail lists. Social media provided a platform where anyone could challenge Nestlé and its policies, and through this platform all of you made Nestlé realise that people don't want to buy products that come at the cost of rainforests. It needed to change its policies to reflect public opinion and – eventually – it did.

Today we use social media in much the same way Greenpeace has always used mass media tools: As a powerful channel to communicate with people, to win campaign goals, and to further our mission of giving the Earth a voice.

Thanks for the break!



Campaigning online gives us more chances to be creative, to involve more of you in our campaigns – to put it simply: it's fun.

Media is a fast-moving, constantly evolving creature. We don't know what it will look like in 10 years – or even next year. What we do know is that we are facing huge challenges in the environmental movement. There are powerful obstacles between us and our goals. We know that we will need every resource, every person, every tool, every channel available to us to keep moving forwards. But we will move forwards, and as we do so, social media will have many more important roles to play.

Be sure not to miss what's coming next:



<http://www.facebook.com/greenpeace.international>



<http://twitter.com/greenpeace>

Breaking the law?

How should the law deal with non-violent direct actions that seek to raise the level and quality of public debate, but involve a breach of the law?



Daniel Simons

Environmental Lawyer

Working with Greenpeace International's Legal Unit, Daniel advises on international environmental law and legal aspects of campaigning. He is a member of the New York bar and holds an LL.M. degree in international law.

Early in the morning of 17 December 2001, a group of intruders penetrated the area inside the perimeter fence surrounding the Lucas Heights nuclear plant, Australia's only reactor. The plant's operator, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), had only recently announced that security around the facility had been upgraded, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11th. It was an important moment to reassure the public, as ANSTO was in the process of applying for a permit to construct a second reactor on the site.

The intruders arrived in two groups. One group wandered in through the front gate, unopposed by the two security guards on duty. Once inside the secure zone, they stopped and milled around, cutting an amusing figure in their bumbling radioactive waste barrel outfits. Meanwhile, a second group had entered the facility via a fence at the rear, scaled one of the buildings on the site and unfurled a banner that read: 'Nuclear. Never safe!'

Like many Greenpeace actions, it was a confrontational act designed to tell the public an important story through a simple, compelling image. And like many Greenpeace actions, it ended when the police arrived, rounding up and arresting 46 activists for trespass.

How should the law deal with non-violent direct actions that seek to raise the level and quality of public debate, but involve a breach of the law? To those of reactionary inclinations, law-breaking exists in only one variety, and police and prosecutors should make no allowances for 'self-righteous' conduct. Judging by comments on the Greenpeace website, some people even consider an arrest conclusive evidence of guilt, forgetting that - as Peter Ballem, an early Greenpeace lawyer, put it - it isn't against the law to get arrested. The more interesting question, however, is this: should breaking the law always be illegal?

"...some people consider an arrest conclusive evidence of guilt, forgetting that it isn't against the law to get arrested."

Civil disobedience and non-violent direct action (NVDA) have a long and honourable history in democracies. Activists often face scorn because it is usually a gaping hole in public consciousness that drives individuals to risk their freedom by taking action. An appreciation of the justification for their deeds emerges only much later, once public consciousness has matured - which is often thanks in part to the debate being kick-started by the activist. There is no better illustration than Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on an Alabama bus to make room for a white passenger was considered an arrestable offence by many 'right-thinking people' (and the police) at the time, but is now remembered as a courageous symbolic act that helped launch the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Should activists enjoy a licence to break the law, then, because the importance of their message may trump the importance of law enforcement? No, of course not. What makes civil disobedience or NVDA compelling is the courage of the individual to follow his or her conscience over the law, and then to submit to the judgment of society, arguing the justification for the act but accepting its consequences in law.

Two Greenpeace activists who exemplify this spirit are Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki, the 'Tokyo Two', who in 2008 entered a mail depot to intercept a box of whale meat being smuggled off Japan's whaling fleet, disguised as personal luggage. The box, one of several sent by one sailor and labelled as containing 'cardboard', confirmed a whistleblower's account of large-scale embezzlement of prime cuts. Crewmembers of the fleet were selling the meat, a 'by-product' of Japan's 'scientific research', to shops and restaurants for personal gain, apparently with the tacit approval of the officials who received their own share of the spoils.

Sato and Suzuki's investigation exposed a painful scandal in an industry that arouses strong nationalist passion in Japan. Their act turned them into pariahs and provoked politically motivated charges of theft and trespass. But over the course of the two-year trial, in which Sato and Suzuki admitted to all factual aspects of the charges but humbly and articulately explained the reasons and justification for their act, public perception has changed and the mainstream press have started to question the erstwhile sacrosanct whaling programme. While the Tokyo Two were convicted to a 12-month suspended sentence last September, the Fisheries Agency recently admitted to and apologised for part of the scandal, raising hope that the sentence may be reduced on appeal.

Conscientious protestors and activists should not expect immunity from the laws they break. This does not mean, however, that their motives and the contribution they make to public debate should be disregarded. In some cases, society's interest in seeing its laws challenged and broken is greater than its interest in seeing them enforced.

When the 46 activists penetrated the Lucas Heights reactor site, they demonstrated the woefully inadequate security arrangements in a graphic and indisputable way. 'It was not the case', observed Judge Latham of the District Court of New South Wales, 'that the objectives and motives of the defendants could have been achieved by demonstrating at the front gate.' The activists had believed their actions justified in bringing a matter of serious concern to the attention of the Australian public. Finding that 'the right to protest and the right to express publicly one's view, albeit by direct action, is one which is to be valued and protected in the context of a modern democracy', the judge dismissed the charges without conviction.

In 2008, six other Greenpeace activists went on trial in Britain. They had scaled the 200m smokestack of the Kingsnorth power station in Kent and painted a slogan at its summit, in protest at government plans to permit construction of a coal-fired replacement for the aging plant. It was the defence's expert witnesses who put a cut-and-dried case of criminal damage, as it may have originally seemed to be, into a completely different light. Professor James Hansen - often called the world's leading climate scientist - testified that the 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted daily by Kingsnorth could be responsible for the extinction of up to 400 species. The jury further heard that the plant's emissions contributed to a risk of future flooding of low-lying areas around the globe, including in Kent itself.

Recognising the token nature of the damage done by the activists in comparison with the harm already being done by the plant - and set to get worse if the government's plans went ahead - the jury accepted that the defendants had a 'lawful excuse' to make a bold statement. It was the same defence that would permit breaking down a door in order to put out a fire. In 2009, the plan to build the replacement plant was postponed, and a year later, it was shelved indefinitely.

In some cases, as the courts recognise, breaking the law is rightly not illegal.



Talking Tuna in Taiwan

The *Rainbow Warrior* visited Taiwan as part of the international Greenpeace campaign to defend the Pacific. A truly global ocean, the Pacific provides millions with food, jobs and a future, but it's now under serious threat by years of overfishing. The future of marine life and those reliant on the Pacific now hangs in the balance...





Sari Tolvanen

Hailing from Finland, Sari is a qualified diver and an Oceans Campaigner with Greenpeace International.

Greenpeace divers and Taiwanese environmentalists form a mock school of tuna bearing the message "The Last Tuna?" in Pingtung County, Taiwan.

I was fortunate enough to spend the first 30 days of the New Year on board the *Rainbow Warrior*. We were in Taiwan at the start of our East Asia Oceans Defenders tour, a voyage that would also take the ship to Hong Kong and South Korea during the first three months of 2011. This is where the majority of the world's seafood is consumed; and it's also the area where huge industrial fishing fleets from around the world come to plunder the oceans. With 80% of the world's fish stocks now fully or over-exploited, and with millions of people in developing coastal states dependent on fish for their food security and livelihoods, defending these oceans is a huge priority.

East Asia in general and Taiwan in particular are still new frontiers for Greenpeace. We opened our newest office in Taipei in March 2010, and part of my role onboard was also to be the senior adviser for our new but enthusiastic campaign team here; being on a Greenpeace ship and being thrust into both the national and international spotlights that the ships bring to our campaigns could be quite a daunting experience for them the first time round!

This tour is one of the final voyages for this *Rainbow Warrior*. She is now over 52 years old and she has seen 22 action-packed years as Greenpeace's flagship. She'll retire this year, and be replaced by a brand new ship that will bear the legendary *Rainbow Warrior* name.



We love our tuna – only sometimes we love it too much!

One of the first questions I get asked by the media during the tour would be ‘Why Taiwan?’ The short and simple answer is because Taiwan has the biggest tuna fishing fleet in the Pacific Ocean - and time and tuna are running out. Of course, if I’m given more time I can show them that the issue is much more complex and explain how it touches upon every country and every person in the world who has or ever will eat tuna.

The thing is, we just love tuna too much – it’s the world’s favourite fish. The world’s appetite for tuna sandwiches and sushi far exceeds the number of tuna in our oceans. Every one of the five most commercially-important tuna species in the oceans is now in sharp decline. Some even face commercial extinction as fisheries management bodies everywhere fail to agree to even the most conservative scientific advice. Destructive and wasteful fishing techniques are commonplace, and consumers are unwittingly taking part in the deaths of thousands of sharks, turtles and other marine life for the sake of a cheap can of tuna.

The Pacific Ocean provides over 60% of the world’s tuna. It’s also home to vulnerable small island nations for whom tuna provides food, culture and income. These nations just don’t have many other resources to base their existence on. If tuna were to disappear, this would be catastrophic for both the environment and the social fabric of these communities. Foreign fleets from East Asia, the US and Spain have huge fishing capacity in the Pacific; it is these fleets that make the profits while plundering our oceans of fish. Even when vessels pay fees to fish in the waters of Pacific island states, the returns are pitiful and often total only around 6% of the value of the fish. The fish is transferred to fish carriers who then take them for processing in far away places – once again, depriving coastal communities of both jobs and income.

On top of all of this, because island states have little or no capacity to monitor their national - let alone international – waters, pirate fishing is also rife in the region and could account for as much as 40% of the overall catch.

Time and tuna are running out

During the Taiwan leg of the Oceans Defenders tour we travelled all around the island. We used the magnetism of one of the world’s most famous ships to draw in top-level politicians and officials, local NGO groups, industry players and thousands of members of the Taiwanese public – all of them getting the message, loud and clear, that if something big isn’t done really soon to defend our oceans, it will be too late and the tuna will be gone.

We’ve carried out colourful public activities involving hundreds of concerned locals – dive clubs, school kids, conservationists and National Park management staff alike - to show the Taiwanese government that their constituents are as equally concerned and willing to speak out as we are. We’ve documented some of the beauty of the marine environment surrounding Taiwan, and some of the destruction. We’ve shown how beneficial well-managed coastal marine reserves are for local communities, artisanal fishers, tourism and future generations.

We’ve listened to local fishers who’ve told us how family fishing businesses passed down to them from their fathers will be unviable in 10 years time. They know that marine reserves can breathe life into fish stocks, and give the local fishers the hope that they will be able to pass their little boats on to their sons in turn. We’ve talked about how marine reserves can work for the high seas, providing highly migratory tuna with a safe haven to recover from industrial fishing on a massive scale, saving the livelihoods of people all around the world who rely upon them.

We’ve documented good sustainable fisheries, and we’ve exposed the unsustainable ones. We’ve taken direct action against apparent illegal practices – like the fish carrier Lung Yuin, which was on its way to the Pacific to collect questionable tuna catches from Taiwan’s large and uncontrolled fleets. The Lung Yuin was doing business in Taiwan undisturbed, despite its owners having failed to comply with a legal requirement to register the ship, and we stopped it from leaving port for three hours. Unfortunately, on this occasion the Taiwanese authorities decided to investigate Greenpeace and our activists instead of addressing the incompetence of the Fisheries Agency in controlling its vast fishing and carrier fleets. If controls are this loose in the ports, what hope is there that these vessels will operate legally in international waters, away from all controls and – literally – left to their own devices?

FADs

Skipjack tuna is caught almost exclusively by industrial purse seiners, which have increased their efficiency enormously in the last decade through a variety of technological innovations. One of the most effective means of locating and catching skipjack is through the use of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs), used extensively in the Pacific. Placed on the ocean surface by the seine fleets, FADs are floating platform that tuna are instinctively drawn towards. But these devices not only attract tuna but also a host of other species, such as sharks, turtles and other fish, all of which are scooped up in a huge net in one fell swoop. It’s a very wasteful way of fishing, and Greenpeace believes that the use of FADs by industrial tuna fisheries should be urgently and universally banned.

Greenpeace has been campaigning to rescue Pacific tuna and the ecosystem upon which it depends since 2003. But, after years of work on multiple fronts - exposing unsustainable and illegal practices on the high seas, lobbying in the corridors of power, and transforming the consumer markets - the times are indeed a-changing. Through building up pressure in tuna consumer markets - especially in Europe, North America and Japan - we've managed to create the momentum towards rejecting unsustainable tuna products. Retailers are now increasingly demanding sustainable and fairly-caught tuna products. Your demand for responsibly-caught tuna can also have an impact: we need to pressure every corner and coast of the world to help give our children living oceans for the future.

Back in the Pacific, this has also triggered coastal states into tightening their cooperation and taking matters into their own hands. Management of the fisheries in their own waters has improved, with fishing effort reduced by 30% this year. The use of deadly fish aggregation devices (or FADs) in purse seine fisheries has also been limited. Large areas of international waters have been closed off to all purse seine fishing - in total 4.5 million km² as of 1 January 2011. This has been a truly historic move, and one that Greenpeace hopes to see respected by all nations fishing in the region and to also be expanded to include other fishing methods, such as long-lining for tuna. This would create the world's first large-scale network of fully-protected marine reserves in international waters, ensuring better control of pirate fishing, protection of tuna and other marine biodiversity, and improving the economic returns to the coastal states.

With the island nations as strong champions for sustainability, it's not too late to rescue the world's favourite fish. But it will require action from the Pacific to the fishing nations of East Asia, and to consumer markets all over the world.

We're looking forward to strengthening our ranks of Oceans Defenders here in East Asia and ensuring that decision-makers hear loud and clear that it's time to protect the oceans in the interests of everybody; not just the narrow economic interests of their own fishing industries.

Creating marine reserves in the Pacific

In January 2011, a group of Pacific Island Countries extended protection already agreed internationally for areas 1 and 2 (see map) to include three further large areas, totalling 4.5 million km² of biodiversity-rich international waters of the Pacific. The areas are home to all four key species of tuna in the region, turtles, sharks and marine mammals, as well as vulnerable and poorly understood deep sea habitats and coral communities.

In all of these areas the Pacific countries are enforcing a ban (enforced through licensing agreements) on purse seine fishing for tuna - the main method used to catch the valuable tuna for canning. If this legislation is properly implemented and respected by all the fishing nations it can - along with other conservation measures - begin to tackle the overfishing crisis in the region and set a global example of much-needed sustainable and ecosystem-based fisheries management.

Greenpeace is calling on all the foreign fishing nations to cease all other fishing such as tuna long-lining activities in these areas and for retailers and tuna brands to ensure they do not purchase any tuna from these areas.





News from Japan

Since the crisis in Japan began, our thoughts have been with the people of Japan and the nuclear industry workers who are heroically risking their lives attempting to control the situation. It is a race against time to avoid an even greater catastrophe, and we still hope that the worst can be averted.

Once again this shows us that nuclear power is inherently unsafe. Nuclear reactors are a dirty and dangerous power source, and will always be vulnerable to the potentially deadly combination of human error, design failure and natural disaster. Greenpeace is calling for the phase out of reactors around the world, an end to construction of new commercial nuclear reactors. Governments should instead invest in renewable energy resources that are not only safe and environmentally sound but also affordable and reliable.





The world community was united in grief following the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the country's escalating nuclear crisis. But a national and global tragedy was quickly overshadowed by the nuclear industry's attempts to turn a crisis into a pro-nuclear crusade.

You would have been forgiven for thinking that Fukushima served as a free promotional ad for the nuclear industry and not a salient warning against the most expensive and dangerous method ever invented for boiling water.

Despite the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people from their homes, workers with radiation lesions, bans on eating local vegetables and warnings that Tokyo's tap water is not safe for infants, the nuclear industry is actually trying to spin the crisis as a success story for nuclear power. Many are asking us to weigh nuclear against fossil fuels, and using comparisons with the mortality rates per terawatt hour caused by coal to cast Fukushima in a more flattering light.

Even among environmentalists, it's not uncommon for people who are aware of the health issues, the safety problems, the terrorist risks and the waste dilemma to see all the ills of nuclear power as a lesser evil than climate change. There is logic in that. If you weigh the human, environmental and financial costs of Fukushima against the costs of more CO₂ from coal and oil - vanishing island nations, crop failures, worldwide drought, millions of climate refugees, more frequent and severe climatic events - surely, we should pay the price of several Fukushimas to avoid the true horrors of runaway climate change.



Brian Fitzgerald

Greenpeace activist.

Brian works with Greenpeace International's Communications team. He also has a long, proud history of being a Greenpeace activist and cyberactivist.



In examining this position, let's set aside the dangers of nuclear power entirely. Let's accept the satirical assurances that nuclear power is 100% safe, 'unless anything bad happens'. Let's agree that the media is overhyping the dangers of radioactive contamination, and that hundreds of thousands of people have been unnecessarily evacuated from their homes. Let's pretend that nuclear power plants are not prone to human error, or technical failure, or natural disasters. Let's say they aren't targets for terrorists or proliferation risks. Let's imagine we have a solution to the problem of radioactive waste. Let's set all that aside and say we can accept every one of those problems and risks in the name of stopping catastrophic climate change. Surely, in this scenario, nuclear energy is the answer we seek?

Except that it's not...

Even if it were 100% clean, 100% safe and 100% foolproof, nuclear power can do little or nothing in the fight against climate change. Nuclear power is used only to generate electricity. It doesn't run our cars, our planes, our trucks or our container ships. Electricity itself only accounts for around one third of greenhouse gases created by mankind. Nuclear energy today produces less than 6% of global energy consumption.

The International Energy Agency has looked into future energy scenarios and concluded that if existing world nuclear power capacity could be quadrupled by 2050 its share of world energy consumption would still be below 10%. This would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by less than 4%. Still - every percentage shaved off of our ambitious CO₂ reduction targets is a big thing, right? So let's say we set a target of quadrupling nuclear power capacity.

We'd best get started soon - to reach this target would mean building a new reactor every 10 days from now until 2050. Given that the average construction time for nuclear plants now stands at 116 months - according to the World Energy Council - it would seem unlikely that nuclear power plants could be built fast enough to make a difference. We have only a few years left before greenhouse gas emissions need to peak and start to decline, so that we can avoid catastrophic climate change.

But let's continue to give this option the benefit of the doubt. Let's pretend nuclear reactors are safe AND foolproof AND we've solved the waste problem AND they're not terrorist targets AND that we can build a new reactor every ten days from now until 2050 in order to reduce greenhouse gases by 4%.

If we eliminate coal and gas from our option list, surely we have no alternative. There are times the wind doesn't blow and places the sun doesn't shine. Wind and solar, cute and cuddly as they may be, aren't reliable enough to meet our needs. Right?

You'd be surprised.

Electrical grids today are built to adjust to the kinds of variation in supply that comes from 'intermittent' sources like wind and solar. In fact, electricity supply and demand both vary, and grids routinely examine available electrical sources, draw from those that are providing power and skip over those that are offline: they adjust to constantly fluctuating supply to meet constantly fluctuating demand, and can deliver power from suppliers thousands of kilometres away. Solar photovoltaic and wind supply do vary (often conversely) with how much sun and wind are available. But once a network of wind turbines and solar farms connected by an efficient grid becomes widely enough dispersed, it stops being 'intermittent' - it's always blowing or shining somewhere.

You can also add to that mix unvarying renewable supplies like bio energy, hydro and geothermal.

Modern renewable systems also have ways of banking energy. Thanks to heat storage systems, solar power can actually deliver electricity at night. Hydro storage can allow wind turbines to store energy by pumping water into holding tanks on windy days, and letting the water flow past hydroelectric generators on days without wind.

This isn't theory: it's happening. In Spain today, 35% of the energy mix is coming from renewables - 16% of it from wind. Portugal shifted its electrical grid from 15% to 45% renewables in the space of just five years. Germany's installed solar capacity is greater than all six of the Fukushima reactors combined.

Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council have developed an energy scenario which delivers the world's energy supply with 95% renewables by 2050: reliable energy with more jobs, more equitable power distribution, and no 'peak solar' or 'peak wind' fuel price variations. Under this plan, no new nuclear reactors are built. Currently operating plants are phased out. About two thirds of those currently under construction are mothballed.

So this brings us around to the core issue: if nuclear power isn't necessary to solving the climate crisis, we're no longer forced to weigh the awful consequences of climate change against the awful consequences of Chernobyl and Fukushima. In fact, we're paying an exorbitant human, environmental and financial price - and taking even bigger risks - for zero benefit in the fight against climate change.

It's time to change course. We can stop building new nuclear power plants and we can phase out existing nuclear power plants.



On 26 March, a team of Greenpeace radiation experts started monitoring locations around the evacuation zone that surrounds the crisis-stricken Fukushima/Daiichi nuclear plant, in order to assess the true extent of radiation risks to the local population. As part of the monitoring work, the team used a selection of standard radiation monitoring equipment. The team also made contact with communities that have been evacuated from the area around the Fukushima nuclear plant and documented the impacts upon them.

Since the beginning of the Fukushima nuclear crisis, the authorities have consistently underestimated both the risks and extent of radioactive contamination. We went to Fukushima to bear witness to the impacts of this crisis and to provide some independent insight into the resulting radioactive contamination.

By providing honest, transparent and independent analysis of the threats to public health, we aim to provide an alternative to the often-contradictory information released by nuclear regulators in the weeks since the Fukushima disaster began to unfold.



'Golden Chainsaw' for APP



We presented a Golden Chainsaw Award to Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) at the end of January, at Paperworld, an international paper fair in Frankfurt, Germany. The award - for being one of the worst rainforest destroyers in Indonesia - coincided with the UN's unveiling of 2011 as the International Year of Forests. APP, the pulp and paper division of Sinar Mas, is converting huge areas of forest and carbon-rich peatlands into plantations of acacia and eucalyptus, used to produce packaging as well as printing, photocopy and tissue paper for sale around the world.

The deforestation releases enormous quantities of CO₂, making Indonesia the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. It also destroys the natural habitat of endangered species like the orangutan. Our investigation also discovered that APP plans to expand its operations into one of the last refuges for the critically endangered Sumatran tiger.

Greenpeace is calling for an immediate end to the destruction of all Indonesia's natural forest and peatland through a moratorium on the destruction of forests in both new and existing concessions.

Red Carpet revisited



It is now over a year since the failed Copenhagen UN Climate talks, where two Greenpeace activists unfurled banners calling for climate action at a state banquet attended by over 120 Heads of State. In March, the Danish prosecutor finally brought significant charges against 11 people from 8 different countries. The charges include trespass, falsification of documents and impersonating a public official. All eleven face possible jail sentences as well as fines and criminal records. Greenpeace Nordic has also been named under the charges. The activists have also been charged with having committed an offence against Denmark's Queen, which is related to the trespass charge. Bringing the extra charge required the personal approval of Denmark's Justice Minister; it is a particularly obscure provision that has never been used before.

'I will take any justified punishment with my head held high, but these are serious charges that are completely disproportionate to our peaceful protest which called heads of state to take real climate action', said Nora Christiansen, one of those charged. 'Even the threat of these charges could deter others from taking part in peaceful protests, which are an integral part of any healthy democracy'.

Princes changes its tuna



Meanwhile in Belgium, a court gave ten Greenpeace activists a suspended one month jail sentence and a fine for taking part in a climate action during a December 2009 gathering of Heads of State and leading European politicians just before their departure for the Copenhagen summit. The activists arrived at the building where the gathering was held and three of them held up banners calling on the leaders to save the climate. The court found all ten guilty of 'using false documents', as if they had used forged official documents to dupe the security guards. This was not the case, and they had prominently identified themselves as Greenpeace activists. This conviction is out of proportion to their peaceful protest, and an appeal is under active consideration.



Princes - a leading tinned tuna brand - finally got the message that canning ocean destruction is unacceptable. After receiving over 80,000 emails from Greenpeace supporters, Princes says it will no longer rely on indiscriminate and destructive fishing methods that kill all kinds of marine creatures such as sharks and rays. Princes 'tuna action plan' commits to having all of the company's tinned tuna caught by either pole and line or purse seine fishing, without the use of fish aggregation devices by 2014.

Greenpeace's campaign to convince Princes to 'change its tuna' began in 2010, and reached a climax at the beginning of 2011 when Greenpeace activists climbed on top of Princes' HQ in Liverpool in the UK. Others were dressed in shark costumes, handing out leaflets to Princes staff arriving for work.

Princes had already said it would add species information to its tins and would launch its own range of pole and line caught tuna, but this latest announcement brings the company in line with leading UK retailers such as Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose which have zero purse seined tuna in their supply chains.

Princes is also supporting the Pacific Commons marine reserves and has agreed not to source fish from that region. Together with Pacific Island Nations, we've been gathering support for the protection of these international waters, which are vital for key fish species like tuna. While our oceans, tuna and the tens of millions of people dependent on them for livelihoods may have won a small victory, our work to rescue the world's oceans will continue. As close as we are to achieving fully protected marine reserves in the Pacific - the majority of our oceans remain at risk. That's why we're campaigning for a network of marine reserves that cover 40% of the world's oceans.



Dave Birmingham, 1913 - 2011



On Tuesday, 11 January, at the age of 97, Dave Birmingham, engineer on the first two Greenpeace ships that sailed to Amchitka Island to protest nuclear weapons, passed away at his home in Keremeos, British Columbia, Canada.

Dave was well-loved and will be remembered in the British Columbia communities where he lived with his wife Deeno, in Nanaimo and Nanoose Bay on the coast, and in the lake region east of Vancouver in Salmon Arm, Granisle, Chase, and Keremeos.

His fellow crew members recall Dave as the quiet, capable engineer who kept two ships afloat during the Amchitka nuclear campaign that launched Greenpeace. 'Engineer Birmingham was a special man,' recalled Robert Keziere, photographer on that first Greenpeace voyage. 'Without doubt, Dave kept the twelve of us above water.'

'Dave was the unsung hero of the *Phyllis Cormack*,' remembered Terry Simmons. 'He was often hidden away below deck, because he kept the vessel afloat. Furthermore, Dave supported his wife Deeno, enabling her social organising work, including a big role in creating the Don't Make A Wave committee that later became Greenpeace.'

In 1969, when the US announced a nuclear bomb test on remote Amchitka Island, in Alaska's Aleutian archipelago, Dave and Deeno, with the BC Voice of Women, joined Dorothy and Irving Stowe in protest.

They alerted their extensive networks, petitioned the Canadian government, and launched a petition and a US boycott to protest the nuclear bomb tests. Deeno urged Dave, an experienced engineer, to join the crew of the *Phyllis Cormack*, the first Greenpeace ship, which departed Vancouver in September 1971. Captain John Cormack recognised Birmingham's prodigious skills and accepted him as engineer. Prior to the launch, Birmingham checked every circuit on the boat, replaced wiring, and refurbished and tuned the aging four-stroke diesel engine. Throughout the voyage, he went below deck every few hours to check the engine, and he once spent an entire day cleaning and repairing it.

As the Greenpeace boat sat anchored in Akutan Bay, east of Amchitka, awaiting word of the test date. Birmingham rowed across the bay in a dingy, discovered an abandoned whaling station, and returned with a large whale rib bone, which he kept throughout his life. When the *Phyllis Cormack* returned to Vancouver – replaced in the campaign by a larger, former minesweeper *Edgewater Fortune*, renamed *Greenpeace II* – Birmingham joined the crew, one of three people who sailed on both ships during that first Greenpeace campaign.

'Dave's humour and his easy, candid way of relating to people endeared him to me,' recalled Zoe Hunter. 'I am deeply saddened to hear of his loss. After the Amchitka voyage, Bob and I with our young children visited Dave and Deeno in Nanaimo. I remember high spirited conversation around the dinner-table, and a walk to the water-front to see the submarine Dave had built.'

Forty years later, prior to his death, Birmingham had been building a new fibreglass submarine, which he had moved around with him and which now sits near Okanagan Lake in British Columbia. His fellow Greenpeace crew mate Bill Darnell recalled, 'Dave and John Cormack had done some salvage work and perhaps this is what he had in mind with the submarine. He always had a great sense of adventure.'

Barbara Stowe recalled, 'Dave told us he heard Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard speak at a conference, which inspired the ambitious submarine project. Two years ago, we picked him up when he came to Lyle Thurston's wake. Here was a 95 year old man spending 16 hours by bus, to honour his old friend. He was a dapper gentleman, white hair neatly combed, wearing a suit. He spoke with wit and clarity and was sharp as a tack. His letters were always beautifully composed and handwritten in elegant script, which never betrayed the ravages of old age.'

On Saturday, 22 January, friends and family held a memorial service for Dave Birmingham in Keremeos, BC, at the Ecumenical Parish. Throughout the Greenpeace network, today's activists and crews have honoured the first Greenpeace marine engineer.

By Rex Weyler: Greenpeace's 'unofficial historian', Rex was a director of the original Greenpeace Foundation, the editor of the organisation's first newsletter and a co-founder of Greenpeace International in 1979. Today, Rex contributes a regular, monthly column – Deep Green – to the Greenpeace website, reflecting on the roots of activism, environmentalism and Greenpeace's past, present and future.



Dear Supporter,

We hope you have enjoyed this special 'East Asia' edition of *The Quarterly*.

As you know, we always welcome your feedback, suggestions and any other comments you may have about *The Quarterly*. But now, we're really keen that you let us know what you think about our new look for 2011. Please tell us what you enjoy, what you would like to see more of, and what else we can do to ensure that we bring you the very best.

Our thoughts continue to be with the people of Japan following the earthquake and the tsunami, and who are now struggling with the unfolding crises at the Fukushima nuclear power station. Our teams of radiation experts who have gone to the area have continued to monitor the situation in Japan, and we will bring you more information about their findings in our next issue.

For now, our very best wishes to you all and our sincere thanks for your continuing help and support. Without your contribution, Greenpeace would not be able to do what it does, in Japan, in East Asia, or anywhere in the world.

Steve and Karen

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One month after the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters hit Japan, destroying lives and causing mass evacuations, Greenpeace activists projected the anti-nuclear message 'No more Fukushimas' in Spanish onto the Cofrentes nuclear power plant. This and other actions at other operating Spanish nuclear power plants were carried out to demand an end to the nuclear age.



Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.

28 offices in over 40 countries – across Europe, the Americas, Asia, the Pacific and Africa... Greenpeace; truly global.

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